

REMARKS

Pursuant to entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 5-16, 18 and 22-28 are pending in the application. Claims 2-4, 17 and 19-21 have been cancelled. Claims 22-28 have been newly added herewith.

Objection to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification because of the format of the Abstract and because the specification lacks sub-headings. Applicant has amended the specification in a manner believed to overcome the objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 7-21 are objected to as being in improper form. Applicant has amended the claims in a manner believed to overcome the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Applicant has canceled claim 21, rendering this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Happ et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0216907). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The subject matter of claims 2-4 has been incorporated into independent claim 1 and claims 2-4 have been canceled. Claim 1 now includes the subject matter of original claim 4.

Claim 1 recites “a plurality of first said resilient members circumferentially spaced around said first axis and a plurality of second said resilient members offset from

said first resilient members in a direction parallel to said first axis". The Office Action asserts that Happ discloses vibration attenuating means in the form of flanges 53, 54 which are made of a resilient material. However, there appear to be only two single flanges – a flange 54 at a front end of the motor and a flange 53 at the rear end of the motor. Therefore, these flanges 53, 54 cannot be a plurality of first and second resilient members as claimed.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency. Furthermore, claim 5 recites that the first resilient members are circumferentially offset relative to said second resilient members. The Office Action points to Fig. 3 as showing this configuration. However, Fig. 3 only shows the single flange 53. Even if flanges 53, 54 could comprise the resilient members, there is no indication that these flanges are circumferentially offset at least because the figures only show flange 53. Flanges 53 and 54 are axially spaced from one another. However, it is unknown whether flange 54 is *circumferentially* offset from flange 53. Flange 54 may line up with flange 53 such that they are circumferentially aligned. Accordingly, claim 5 is further allowable at least because the alleged resilient members are not circumferentially offset as claimed.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 5 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Happ. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1. Happ is deficient with respect to claim 1 for at least those reasons discussed above. Even if, for the sake of argument alone, it would have been obvious to modify Happ to include leaf springs, such a modification would not correct the above-noted deficiencies of Happ with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 6 is allowable over Happ at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1.

New Claims

Claims 22-28 have been newly added herewith. Claim 22 is an independent claim and claims 23-28 depend from claim 22. Claim 22 is allowable over the cited references at least because the art fails to disclose pluralities of attenuators as set forth in claim 22 in combination with the other features recited therein. Claims 23-28 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 22.

Conclusion

Applicants do not acquiesce to the characterizations of the art. For brevity and to advance prosecution, however, Applicants have not addressed all characterizations of the art, but reserve the right to do so in further prosecution of this or a subsequent application.

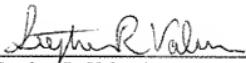
Serial No. : 10/597,376
Filed : July 14, 2008
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Attorney Docket No. P-US-CS-1162

No fees are believed to be due at this time. However, the USPTO is authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 02-2548. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 26, 2010



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